

REMARKS

In the above referenced case, claims 371 and 372 are pending. Applicant will sequentially address the issues raised by the Examiner.

I. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 371-372 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurematsu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,153,752 ("KUREMATSU") in view of Konno, U.S. Patent No. 4,497,015 ("KONNO") and Jachimowicz et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,995,718 ("JACHIMOWICZ").

The Examiner acknowledged that neither KUREMATSU nor KONNO discloses or suggests element [f] in claims 371 and 372. The Examiner relied on JACHIMOWICZ for allegedly disclosing this element.

A. JACHIMOWICZ Does Not Disclose or Suggest Element [f] as Recited in Claims 371 and 372

It is axiomatic that the combination of cited references in a §103 rejection must disclose every element of the rejected claim.

Element [f] of both claims 371 and 372 recites:

altering the selected predetermined orientation of the chosen component of the electromagnetic wave field vectors of a plurality of portions of the resolved beam of electromagnetic energy by passing the plurality of portions of the resolved beam of electromagnetic energy through altering means whereby the selected predetermined orientation of the chosen component of the electromagnetic wave field vectors of the plurality of portions of the resolved beam of electromagnetic energy is altered in a pixel-wise manner in response

to a stimulus means by applying a signal means to the stimulus means in a predetermined manner as the plurality of portions of the resolved beam of electromagnetic energy passes through the altering means for altering the selected predetermined orientation of the chosen component of the electromagnetic wave field vectors. (emphasis added).

The Examiner cited the electrically controllable half wave plate (ECR) in JACHIMOWICZ as allegedly disclosing the altering means recited in element [f]. The “ECR switches polarization states, that is, ‘S’ to ‘P’ and vice versa” of any beam that passes through it. JACHIMOWICZ, col. 3, lines 32-33. The ECR in JACHIMOWICZ is controlled by a switch which can switch the ECR to an “on” state or an “off” state. When in an “off” state, the ECR does not change the polarization of any entire beam passing through it. JACHIMOWICZ, col. 5, lines 10-12. When in an “on” state, the ECR changes the polarization of any entire beam passing through it from a current state to an opposite state (e.g., S to P, P to S, or reversing the direction of circular polarization). JACHIMOWICZ, col. 5, lines 12-15. Thus, the ECR responds to a signal (i.e., an on or off signal) by changing or not changing the polarization of any passing beam in its entirety.

In contrast, element [f] requires altering a plurality of portions of a beam in a pixel-wise manner in response to a stimulus means by applying a signal means to the stimulus means. For example, upon application of signal means, polarization of portions of a beam may be altered differently (e.g., on a pixel-by-pixel basis) in response to the stimulus means. JACHIMOWICZ failed to disclose or suggest any stimulus means able to alter a plurality of portions of a beam as recited in element [f].

Based on the foregoing, claims 371-372 should be in condition for allowance.

II. Correction of Typographical Errors

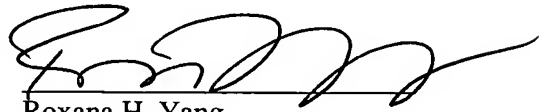
Claims 371-372 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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